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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 9, 2011

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<http://www.justice.gov/usao/dc/news/2011/apr/news.html>

Virginia Man Sentenced to 34 Months in Prison For Failing to Register as a Sex Offender - Defendant Had Been Convicted in Child Pornography Case-

WASHINGTON - Sidney Spain, 37, of Richmond, Va., was sentenced today to 34 months in prison for failing to maintain his registration as a sex offender and violating the terms of his supervised release in an underlying child pornography case, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Criminal Division.

Spain was sentenced by U.S. District Senior Judge Thomas F. Hogan in the District of Columbia. Judge Hogan also sentenced Spain to 25 years of supervised release to follow his prison term. Spain pleaded guilty to the charges in June 2011.

According to court documents, Spain was sentenced in October 2008 by Judge Hogan to 36 months in prison following his conviction on one count of possession of child pornography. The conviction stemmed from Spain's possession of over more than 600 images of child pornography, the majority of which were of prepubescent males.

Spain was released from prison in June 2010. Under the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, and under the terms of his supervised release, Spain was required to register as a sex offender with the appropriate state sex offender registration agency.

According to court documents, Spain moved to Virginia and registered as a sex offender in the state. He signed a form that outlined his requirement to re-register in the state each year. In addition, the form explained that he was required to re-register within three days of a change of residence within Virginia and 10 days prior to a move outside the state.

In January 2011, however, without the approval of his probation officer or the Court, Spain traveled by train to Florida. A warrant for his arrest was issued and the U.S. Marshals Service ultimately tracked him to Florida. According to court documents, Spain had been arrested in Fort Lauderdale in April 2011 for failure to wear a seat belt and for providing a false name to a law enforcement officer. According to the police report, at the time of his arrest, the

defendant provided two false names to police. Upon being arrested and fingerprinted, Spain's true identity was established.

According to court documents, from the time that Spain fled Virginia, up to and including the day of his arrest on April 21, 2011, Spain knowingly failed to notify authorities in Virginia of his new address or update his sex offender registration information. The defendant likewise failed to notify any appropriate Florida authorities of his residence in the State of Florida as required by federal law.

The Sex Offender and Registration Notification Act requires anyone convicted of sex crimes under federal law, or anyone convicted in state court and traveling in interstate commerce, to register with law enforcement agencies where they live, work or are a student.

As noted by the government at today's sentencing, the defendant's abscondance from supervision in Virginia and subsequent failure to either update his Virginia registration or notify appropriate Florida authorities deprived two jurisdictions of their significant interest in monitoring the movements of a registered sex offender. Each of those jurisdictions has a right and responsibility to citizens to account for registered sex offenders in their states and provide appropriate notice to citizens of their whereabouts.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jean Sexton of the District of Columbia and Department of Justice Trial Attorney Keith Becker of the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. The case was investigated by the U.S. Marshals Service.

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